AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Applicant presents replacement paragraphs below indicating the changes with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 23 with the following paragraph:

In general this domain has at least 3 Cs and Gs, more preferably 4 of each, and most preferably 5 or more of each. The number of Cs and Gs in this domain need not be identical. It is preferred that the Cs and Gs are arranged so that they are able to form a self-complementary duplex, or palindrome, such as CCGCGCGG. This may be interrupted by As or Ts, but it is preferred that the self-complementarity is at least partially preserved as for example in the motifs CGACGTTCGTCG (SEQ ID NO: 27) or CGGCGCCGTGCCG (SEQ ID NO: 28). When complementarity is not preserved, it is preferred that the non-complementary base pairs be TG. In a preferred embodiment there are no more than 3 consecutive bases that are not part of the palindrome, preferably no more than 2, and most preferably only 1. In some embodiments the GC-rich palindrome includes at least one CGG trimer, at least one CCG trimer, or at least one CGCG tetramer. In other embodiments the GC-rich palindrome is not CCCCCCGGGGGG (SEQ ID NO: 29) or GGGGGGCCCCCC (SEQ ID NO: 30), CCCCCGGGGG (SEQ ID NO: 31) or GGGGGCCCCC (SEQ ID NO: 32).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 43, line 31 with the following paragraph:

The linkages are preferably composed of C, H, N, O, S, B, P, and Halogen, containing 3 to 300 atoms. An example with 3 atoms is an acetal linkage (ODN1-3'- O-CH2-O-3'-ODN2 ; Froehler and Matteucci) connecting e. g. the 3'-hydroxy group of one nucleotide to the 3'-hydroxy group of a second oligonucleotide. An example with about 300 atoms is PEG-40 (tetraconta polyethyleneglycol). Preferred linkages are phosphodiester, phosphorothioate, methylphosphonate, phosphoramidate, boranophosphonate, amide, ether, thioether, acetal, thioacetal, urea, thiourea, sulfonamide, Schiff' Base and disulfide linkages. Another possibility is the use of the Solulink BioConjugation System ~~(www. trilinkbiotech. com)~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 44, line 18 with the following paragraph:

The oligonucleotide partial sequences may also be linked by non-nucleotidic linkers, in particular abasic linkers (dSpacers), trietyhlene glycol units or hexaethylene glycol units. Further preferred linkers are alkylamino linkers, such as C3, C6, C12 aminolinkers, and also alkylthiol linkers, such as C3 or C6 thiol linkers. The oligonucleotides can also be linked by aromatic residues which may be further substituted by allcyl or substituted allcyl groups. The oligonucleotides may also contain a Doubler or Trebler unit ~~(www. genres. com)~~ (Glen Research), in particular those oligonucleotides with a 3'3'-linkage. Branching of the oligonucleotides by multiple doubler, trebler, or other multiplier units leads to dendrimers which are a further embodiment of this invention. The oligonucleotides may also contain linker units resulting from peptide modifying reagents or oligonucleotide modifying reagents ~~(www. glenres. com)~~ (Glen Research). Furthermore, it may contain one or more natural or unnatural amino acid residues which are connected by peptide (amide) linkages.